Telemetry, July/August 2011

McNair Scholars Program (University of Northern Iowa)
TELEMETRY

to the UNI Community

JULY / AUGUST 2011

"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft agley." Robert Burns: "To a Mouse"

We are proud to present the second issue of our monthly McNair newsletter. This combined July / August issue will (we hope) give the reader insight into the workings of the Summer Research Internship.

Our 11th SRI began with one of the largest classes ever (10 scholars) and ended with eight remaining - still a record. Hopefully, all of the scholars will be able to present their research at the upcoming SRI Presentation Event, details of which will be announced separately, but should take place on or near the 19th of September.

While the scholars and their mentors were working at their various crafts, we arranged for additional activities, as well.

The Machen Presentation
One of our mentors, Dr. Emily Machen (History) kicked off the summer with what can be described as a “gift” to our scholars, a workable and easily understood method for organizing and storing research data. Her methods, developed over several years of graduate study, enable a writer to easily retrieve relevant information from a paper, reference, or source that one has previously stored. A little effort at collection time reaps big benefits at writing time. Thanks to Dr. Machen for sharing her “secrets”, and for some interesting stories of living and studying in Paris.

Campus Visit: University of Minnesota
Dr. Vince Gotera (English), one of the McNair Program’s best friends, led a group of scholars on a visit to Minneapolis to visit UM. As is the case with all of our graduate school visits, the scholars contact a faculty member at the visited institution to set up a face-to-face meeting. If the scholar is unable to make a personal contact, the visited Department arranges a meeting for the scholar. Thus, each scholar has a private meeting with their targeted department and/or professor. Department visits are usually in the afternoon, following a morning of presentations by Graduate College staff on various topics, and a campus tour. We often find that one or more scholars leaves any university surprisingly impressed. No difference this time. Esthella Kamara “found” a department she hadn’t known existed which fit her future research plans exactly! In addition, our three historians (Ramon Cantu, Raul Munoz, and Mike Perez) all left Minneapolis with plans to apply.

Campus Visits: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Marquette University, and Northwestern University
Later in the month we undertook a more ambitious set of visits - 3 universities in 2 days. Mary Ann Gotera and her husband led the trip which began in Milwaukee. After a morning visit to Marquette, the group headed over to UW-M. Both visits followed the usual routine of presentations, tours, and faculty visits. That long day was followed immediately by a visit to Evanston, and Northwestern’s “McNair Day.” McNair Scholars from several programs in the East, Southeast, and Midwest were represented. The three visits left the group road-weary but satisfied with the experience. After dinner at a local bistro [photo, p.2] and a good nights’ sleep, the trip was topped off with a visit to the Field Museum in Chicago.

Campus Visit: University of Illinois-Chicago
In early August, at the end of our 9-week SRI experience, we visited the urban campus of the University of Illinois-Chicago. We were all surprised by the size and quality of UIC. To quote from their publicity, “UIC ranks among the nation’s leading research universities and is Chicago’s largest university with 26,000 students, 12,000 faculty and staff, 15 colleges and the state’s major public medical center.” [UIC photo, p.3] I think most of our scholars were unaware of the quality and strength of this University. We were joined on our visit by the Director and several scholars from the McNair Program at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.
Our Academic Advisor, Mary Ann Blue Gotera (left) reminds you that the McNair Scholars Program is designed to prepare undergraduates for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. McNair participants are from specific backgrounds and have demonstrated strong academic potential. Candidates for the McNair Scholars Program must meet the following requirements:

- A currently enrolled student (minimum of 60 credit hours completed) with a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.80.
- A US citizen or permanent resident of the United States, US Territories, or Freely Associated States.
- Either:
  - a first-generation college student (neither parent has completed a bachelor’s degree) of any ethnic background and low-income level  OR
  - a member of a group underrepresented in graduate education: Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Native American Pacific Islander.
- A declared major field of study.
- A serious interest in pursuing graduate study leading to the Ph.D.
### SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Scholar Meeting: Orientation / Welcome Back Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9 Sept</td>
<td>Campus Visit: University of Wisconsin-Madison</td>
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<td>[Pending confirmation by UW]</td>
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<td>14 Sept</td>
<td>Scholar Meeting: Graduate Student Panel</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Sept</td>
<td>Summer Research Presentations 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM UNI Maucker Union</td>
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<td>[additional details forthcoming]</td>
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<td>21 Sept</td>
<td>Scholar Meeting: Writing Session - Writing the Personal Statement I</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-25 Sept</td>
<td>The 15th Annual MKN McNair Heartland Research Conference: Marriott Country Club Plaza Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri</td>
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<td>30 Sept-2 Oct</td>
<td>Graduate School Application Workshop: Geneva, Wisconsin</td>
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